

Hicksite Friends Meeting House
(Wayne County Museum)
1150 North A Street
Richmond
Wayne County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-119

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89. RICH.
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PHOTOGRAPH
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IND-119

HICKSITE FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE
(Wayne County Museum)

Location: 1150 North A Street, Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana.
USGS Richmond Quadrangle Map, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16.680830.4410910.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Wayne County Historic Society.

Present Use: Museum.

Statement of
Significance: The Hicksite Friends, the largest and most influential religious sect in nineteenth-century Richmond, acquired a plot of land from Charles W. Starr in 1864. By the following year they had erected this symmetrical cross-gable brick building. In keeping with Quaker philosophy, stylistic details are simple and modified to blend with the fabric. Today, the structure is part of the Starr Historic District and has been sensitively converted to a museum by the county historical society.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1864-65
2. Architect: George Hoover.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Hicksite Friends of Richmond acquired this plot of land from Charles W. Starr in 1864 and erected the structure in 1864-65. Until 1928, it was used as a Friends meeting house; the last group to occupy the building were the Whitewater Friends. They gave it to the Wayne County Historical Society in 1929.
4. Builder: William N. Mathews.
5. Original plan and construction: This symmetrical brick structure is rectangular with a slightly projecting central pavilion. It measures 92 feet (five-bay front) by 52 feet deep and is one-and-a-half stories with a partially exposed basement. It is of load bearing brick construction on a stone foundation with a watertable of bushhammered Dayton

limestone. The cross-gable roof is covered with asphalt sheathing and pierced by four brick chimneys. The wide eaves are boxed with a molded wooden cornice. Narrow segmentally-arched windows are set in slightly recessed segmentally-arched panels, as is the entrance. The central portico, raised eight steps above the street level and supported by wooden columns, leads to glazed double doors with a transom. A similar, though smaller, porch is on the side elevation. The interior's main floor is one large room with a screen, operated by pulley, to separate men from women during Quaker meetings. the full basement is also one large area.

6. Alterations and additions: The meetinghouse was acquired by Wayne County Historic Society in 1929 and converted into a museum. The basement area was divided into display spaces for the museum by movable partitions. In 1952-53 a new section for museum exhibits was added at the rear of the original building. This one-story brick structure is rectangular and measures 84 feet (across the rear) by 44 feet. Windows on the original section were removed and a doorway was installed to permit access into the new exhibit area. Additional display buildings have been erected on the grounds.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

HICKSITE FRIENDS AND ELIAS HICKS

The Hicksite Friends of Richmond, Indiana were descendents of the followers of Elias Hicks. Elias Hicks (1748-1830), a native of Long Island, New York, was a nationally prominent Quaker minister in the early nineteenth century. By 1815, Hicks was widely recognized as an exponent of liberal religious views, preaching that salvation was within the individual and not accomplished through good acts. As an opponent of evangelical doctrines of salvation, he believed that the inward light was the all-important feature of life and religion, tending toward an extreme Quietism. Hicks' dissident views were adamantly opposed by Orthodox Friends. As a result of this controversy, the national Society of Friends split into two factions in 1828. The Hicksite Friends who built the Hicksite Meetinghouse in 1864-65 in Richmond were disciples and promoters of Hicks' religious philosophy.

STARR HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Hicksite Meetinghouse stands within the residential area which is designated Starr Historic District. As an architectural community it is one of the largest collections in Indiana of early nineteenth-century villas and town houses. Many of the state's wealthiest and most influential merchants, bankers and industrialists built their houses here. Most were members of the Society of Friends and the Hicksite Meetinghouse was their place of religious gathering.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

National Register of Historic Places, Nomination Form,
prepared October, 1975.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Dictionary of American Biography, IX. New York;
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932.

History of Wayne County. Chicago: Inter-State
Publishing Company, 1884.

Prepared by Jan Cigliano
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
October 1978

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. The structure was recorded in the summer of 1974 under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Associate Professor Mort Karp (University

of Arkansas), with architect Harry Hunderman (University of Michigan), student assistant architects, Scott Bernard (University of Pennsylvania), Mark Hall (Pennsylvania State University), Richard Perlmutter (Yale University), and architectural historian Robert Brueggmann (University of Pennsylvania), at the HABS Field Office, Earlham College, Wayne County, Richmond, Indiana. The data was compiled and prepared in HABS office by staff historian Jan E. Cigliano. Photographs were taken by HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher in 1975.

ADDENDUM TO
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